MICROFILMED RS/HN (605) E (b)(6)

P740072-1183

EXCISE

July 11, 1974

Dear [redacted] (b)(6)

Your letter of June 19 to Mr. William Blair, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs, has been forwarded to this Office. You ask for published information available in the Department of State on the June 8, 1967 incident when the Israelis attacked the U.S.S. Liberty, a U.S. Navy communications ship, and on the U.S. Navy court of inquiry held to investigate the episode.

We are enclosing copies of three official statements on the incident that were printed in the weekly Department of State Bulletin. The first two are statements made by the U.S. Representative to the United Nations, Arthur Goldberg, during the meetings of the U.N. Security Council on June 8 and June 13, 1967, and the third is a letter from President Johnson to Senator Mansfield dated June 8.

As reported in The New York Times, White House Press Secretary George Christian announced on June 8 that President Johnson had used the "hot line" to Moscow to discuss the incident with Soviet Chairman Kosygin. On June 9, according to the Times, the White House released a note of apology addressed to President Johnson from Israeli Prime Minister Eshkol. If you wish copies of the official White House releases, I suggest that you write to the Lyndon B. Johnson Library, Austin, Texas 78712. There is also a reference in Johnson's book, The Vantage Point (see p. 301), to his use of the "hot line".

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For information concerning the U.S. Navy court of inquiry, you should write to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs, Department of Defense, Washington, D.C. 20301.

Sincerely yours,

Edwin S. Costrell
Chief, Historical Studies Division
Historical Office

Enclosures:

As stated

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